

MEMORANDUM

Staff Summary No. 4

Date: October 15, 2014

To: Members of the California School Finance Authority

From: Katrina M. Johantgen, Executive Director

Subject: Consideration of Appeal Regarding the Charter School Facility Grant Program

Background: On April 10, 2014, all California charter schools were notified via-email of the deadline for application submission for the 2014-15 funding round under the State Charter School Facility Grant Program (Program). Section 10170.5(b) of the Program regulations sets forth an application deadline of May 10, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. As May 10, 2014 fell on a Saturday, the application deadline was extended to Monday, May 12, 2014 which was stated in the email.

Staff currently has five schools appealing their ineligibility for the Program. Below we have highlighted five schools' appeals. Appeal letters have been attached for your review and consideration.

1. River Oak Charter School believed that the due date for the application was due in fall, like it was last year. The school is a former recipient of the grant and claims that they never received an e-mail notification from CSFA about the application due date of May 12, 2014 for 2014-15. Based on staff's review of the e-mail notification, River Oak was sent the e-mail notification, but school representatives claim they never received it because County Office of Education migrated email servers the email was lost.
2. KIPP Adelante Preparatory Academy claims "for some reason, CSFA did not receive [their] application this year." Aside from the attached letter dated September 5th KIPP Adelante did not further specify the reason for submitting the application after the May 12th deadline.
3. San Diego Cooperative Charter School respectfully asks that the application be considered for funding.
4. Summit Public School: Shasta states that upon seeing the publication of the 2013-14 Free and Reduced Priced Meals (FRPM) data realizes the school may be eligible to receive SB740 funds. Shasta did not submit application until September because it "did not seem an effective use of CSFA's or Summit's resources for Shasta to apply for SB740 funds." Shasta claims that the local elementary Margaret Pauline Brown Elementary is located within their attendance area and based on the latest 2013-14 FRPM data has 70% FRPM. However, upon further review staff found Jefferson Elementary District Boundaries lists Garden Village Elementary as the local elementary school based upon Shasta's facility located on 350 90th St. Daly City, CA 94015. (Please see attached Jefferson Elementary District Boundaries pg. 11) Garden Village Elementary 2013-14 FRPM is 67% and thus Summit Public School: Shasta is not currently eligible to receive SB740 Funds.
5. Nevada City School of the Arts claims the business manager was recently hired and was not aware that the state moved the application deadline to May this year.

Nevada City has made amendments to their timeline of events to ensure future deadlines are met.

Recommendation: Staff is recommending that the board deny the appeal by the aforementioned schools. Program regulations clearly state the submission deadline. Whereas we are empathetic to the financial ramifications this denial may have on the school, we cannot violate Program regulations or make exemptions for some schools.